

Monday, Dec 04, 2023

EPAPER | TODAY'S PAPER

[Home](#) [Cities](#) [Explained](#) [Opinion](#) [Business](#) [Entertainment](#) [Sports](#) [Politics](#) [Lifestyle](#) [Tech](#) [Investigations](#) [Research](#)

TRENDING

Election
ResultsRajasthan
ResultsTelangana
ResultsChhattisgarh
Results LIVEMP
ResultsPremium
StoriesUPSC
SpecialLive
TV

ADVERTISEMENT

[News](#) / [Lifestyle](#) / [Art And Culture](#) / Political art by artist Varunika Saraf attempts to spell out the current times through images[Premium](#)

Political art by artist Varunika Saraf attempts to spell out the current times through images

Her ongoing solo presents landscapes inflicted with violence, farmer protests and India's history of resistance

Written by [Benita Fernando](#)

Mumbai | December 10, 2021 09:10 IST

 NewsGuard Follow Us  

Embroidery makes its appearance in some other works in the show, such as a burnished set called *Jugni* (2020). (Photo: PR handout)

Caput Mortuum, Hyderabad-based artist and art historian Varunika Saraf's latest solo show, derives its title from a pigment with an unusual history. Some say its close cousin was once extracted from

mummified bodies, with anecdotes of people running out of true Egyptian mummies to produce the pigment. Others say it is based in alchemy, as the residue in a heating flask after the nobler elements sublime. Caput Mortuum is Latin for “Dead Head”, relating to rust and residue. The pigment—an earthy brown with tones of violet and maroon—is more affable than its backstory suggests but Saraf is drawn to it precisely for these morbid and mysterious connotations. She uses the pigment extensively, often as the base layer in her paintings, including several in this exhibition that opened last month at Mumbai’s Chemould Prescott Road gallery and runs till December 31.

ALSO READ | Museum to fix ‘ripples’ in Rembrandt’s ‘Night Watch’

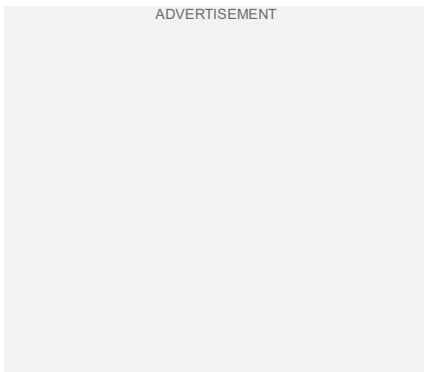
“Caput Mortuum looks like dried blood. It seeps through the overlying stratum of colour and bleeds through the surface. It’s like history and past injustices,” says Saraf, 39. The artist’s note for the exhibition uses phrases such as “blots of bleeding colour” and “a present besieged by brutal acts of violence”, which would make one suspect that Caput Mortuum is not for the fainthearted. We expect a bloody affair. But in place of the grotesque, Saraf offers illusion.

© The Indian Express Pvt Ltd

First published on: 10-12-2021 at 09:10 IST

Latest Comment

ADVERTISEMENT



ENGINEER YOUR
SUCCESS WITH
exam
alertplus



 Your daily chai is ₹10
MORE LIFESTYLE

Rs 25.55 Crore

Expulsion

- Vicky Kaushal Delivers Towering Performance In Sam Bahadur, But Film Demands One Intervention
- Arshdeep Singh Credits Axar Patel And Ravi Bishnoi For Series Win, Says He Had Nothing To Lose In The Final Over
- Union MoS Prahlad Patel: 'Congress Made Mistakes (In MP)... Their Leaders Were Tired And Old'
- Today In Politics: Who Gets To Be CM? Rajasthan To Telangana, Focus Now Shifts To 'Game Of Thrones'
- To Win, 40 Lakh Booth Workers Followed Amit Shah's Strategy: MP BJP Chief
- Economist And Dalit Thinker M Kunhaman, Whose Writing Reflected Kerala's Caste Realities, Dies At 74
- Tailwinds Boost Q2 Growth, But Multiple Headwinds Loom Ahead
- Composite Licence Can Provide Customers With Comprehensive Insurance Options: Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance MD

FOLLOW US



DOWNLOAD APPS



EXPRESS GROUP

The Indian Express

ieTamil.com

The Financial Express

ieBangla.com

Loksatta

ieMalayalam.com

Jansatta

ieGujarati.com

inUth

The ExpressGroup

MyInsuranceClub

Newsletters

26/11 Stories of Strength

Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards

Online Classes for Kids

Light House Journalism

Compare Term Insurance

QUICK LINKS

T&C

Privacy Policy

Advertise with Us

Brand Solutions

Contact Us

Subscribe

Statutory provisions on reporting (sexual offenses)

This website follows the DNPA's code of conduct

CSR